

New Brunswick, New Jersey,

September 14, 1926.

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THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :
 :
VS. :
 :
HENRY D. CARPENDER and :
WILLIAM STEVENS, :
Defendants. :
----- X

Statement of Ralph V. M. Gorsline taken on the
above date at the office of Reckitts, Ltd., in reply to
questioning by Timothy N. Pfeiffer, Esq.

GEORGE D. ZIEGLER
OFFICIAL STENOGRAPHIC REPORTER
SUPREME COURT EXAMINER
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY
COURT HOUSE } NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.
ELIZABETH, N. J.

Joachim Wichmann,
Assistant.

Office of Reckitts, Ltd.,

New Brunswick, New Jersey,

September 14, 1926, 11 A. M.

Statement of Ralph V. M. Gorsline taken by
Joachim Wichmann, Assistant Official Stenographic Reporter
of Middlesex County, at the above address, upon question-
ing by Timothy N. Pfeiffer, Esq.

BY MR. PFEIFFER:

Q Mr. Gorsline, as near as you can remember will you repeat
the incidents of the night of September 14, 1922, from
the time you left your home that evening until you
returned to your home?

A I left my home shortly after eight o'clock, went to the
Y. M. C. A.

Q Were you attending a conference or committee meeting there?

A No. I went in to see how the bowling alleys were getting
along. They were having them repaired. And when I
entered I saw two friends of mine playing billiards, so
as I had nothing to do for the evening, I sat down and
watched them. They were two good alibis of mine, by the
way.

Q What are their names? A Hugh Torbet. He is the
station major over at the Raritan River Railroad. And
A/ B. Wright; I don't know where he is now.

Q Does he live in New Brunswick?

A Yes. I suppose that was probably until about half-past nine.

Q That you stayed there playing? A I just watched them, you know.

Q You just watched them? A Yes. In fact I did go up front and looked at a couple of papers and went back, and then they disappeared. They had gone. So I went downstairs and met Mr. Tribbet.

Q What is his first name? A I don't know, but we call him "Pop." "Pop" Tribbet.

Q He is an employe of the Y. M. C. A.? A An employe of the Y.

Q I see. A I asked him, "How are you getting along with the alleys?" "Oh," he says, "All right." I says, "Pop, put on the lights and let me see." He was then getting ready to go home. They don't close up until about 10:30, but I could see there weren't many people down there, being just late in the Summer, don't you know; so many don't take up the activities of the Y then. So we went in and went all over where they had planed them, looked at the pits, and finally we came out, I should judge maybe five or ten minutes to ten, stood talking there for a minute or two, and I said good night to him.

Q Was that on the outside of the Y that you were talking to him, or on the inside? A No, on the inside. And I then left the Y, went upstairs and left the Y. Now, Jache said that he saw me there, but I didn't bring him

into the alibi at all. He saw me there, knew that I was there that night. I just reached the sidewalk when Miss Rastall, unfortunately for her and for me too in this particular case, came along. I said, "Hello, where are you going?" She says, "I am going home." I asked her where she had been. She said, "I just came from the State Theatre."

Q Mr. Gorsline, right there, you have been reported as having said that you saw someone at the scene of the murder, and that you said, "Hello, what are you doing here?" to him. Do you remember whether that is what you said to Miss Rastall when you met her, or did you say, "Hello, where are you going?" I am trying to figure out where the confusion occurred in that respect.

A No, there is none. We didn't see any one up there that night.

Q In the lane? A In the lane.

Q In DeRussey's Lane? A Yes.

Q That is all right, then. I just wanted to interject that.

A I can tell you the reason why. I will tell you a little bit later.

Q You said to her, "Hello, where are you going?" What did she say? A She said, "I am going home," and the conversation was that she had been to the State Theatre. I says, "Come on. I have got my car here. I will run you up." So we got in the car. I had some job there with the lights or getting the starter to go for a couple

of seconds and finally we got off, maybe taking two or three minutes.

Q That was the green Apperson Jack-Rabbit car?

A Yes, sir.

Q That is an open car? A Open car.

Q What was the condition of the headlights? A They were amber color, very poor.

Q By "poor" you mean that they did not throw the full glare that they should? A Oh, no, they couldn't. I was going to have them changed, and I thought that right along, because Fords like that come along, you know, and I would be absolutely blinded, and I had no way of protecting myself against them. They were amber colored.

Q And then when they were on full-- A They looked like dimmers, poor dimmers.

Q Yes. A I said, "Shall we take a little spin?" She said, "It is rather late." I said, "Well, we will run by on the landing bridge," and so we did.

Q What streets did you go on? Can you tell your route now, from the Y? A I think we went up George Street to Hamilton, up Hamilton to College, up College Avenue-- instead of turning in Senior Street we continued on past her house to Landing Lane; then on across to Easton Avenue, and then up to the top of the hill. I says, "Well, it is after ten o'clock. Probably it is late. We will go down and we will stop down below." So of course there is a busy place over there; there are cars passing, coming to

and fro. We didn't know who they are or what they are, so as we drove down I says, "We will stop in here a minute." So I pulled right in DeRussey's Lane, and just as I did--Miss Rastall don't recall this--but there was, I think it was a Ford car just came out. I don't know whether it had its lights off or on, but I could just get on. That is only a narrow place there. It is a little wider at the entrance, but I had to look for the ditch. There is a ditch on the right, and my car is long--had a 131-inch wheel base-- and I could not get around just so easily as a small Ford. So I remember seeing the lights and I looked to the right to see about the ditch and how I was making out getting in. So I don't know whether it was an open or closed car, or whether it had a commercial body or whether it did not. I imagine it was a Ford.

Q What about the lights?

A That is the only reason, for my lights. I imagine because the lights were pretty bright.

Q How far in from Easton Avenue was it that you met the

Ford, or met the car? A Just at the corner. Just practically at the corner.

Q Practically at the corner of the lane and Easton Avenue?

A Yes.

Q It was coming out just as you went in?

A It was coming out just as I went in, yes.

Q And you had to swerve around in order to avoid hitting

him? A That is the idea exactly.

- Q Do you know whether it turned toward Bound Brook or New Brunswick? A I could not recall that.
- Q Do you recall seeing any cars parked on Easton Avenue or in the lane while you were there? A None to my knowledge. I don't remember seeing any.
- Q Did you drive at a moderate speed from the Y. M. C. A. out to DeRussey's Lane? A Well, probably twenty or twenty-five. Not over that.
- Q All right, now, you got in the lane. How far in did you go? A We went in till we struck that first little lane that went up to the left.
- Q That is about how far in, do you think?
- A We were over there the other day, as you know. That is about two hundred feet in.
- Q Two hundred feet from Easton Avenue? A Yes.
- Q You are perfectly clear that that is the lane you went in? A That is positively the lane we went in, yes, because there was a pile of wood. I could see this pile of wood ahead of me, and that was in that lane.
- Q And it was the first lane you come to on Easton Avenue?
- A The first lane on the left, yes; and there were some big bushes right up to the right of this lane, big bushes, "shoemakers," poison vine, poison shrub; and we went right up, and it was dark. She says, "Oh, I don't like it in here. It is entirely too dark." I says, "It is too dark. We will stay in here just a few seconds and then we will pull out."

- Q You had your lights out when you were parked in the lane, off DeRussey's Lane? A Yes, I went right up like this, and I shut the motor off and put off the lights, see.
- Q One minute. How far-- Suppose we call this the first lane to the left, calling that the Phillips lane.
- A They call the other the Phillips lane, you know.
- Q They do? A Yes.
- Q What do you call this? A I did hear the other day what they called it.
- Q Well, the first lane to the left. A Yes.
- Q How far in on the first lane to the left from DeRussey's Lane were you when you parked? A About ten feet.
- Q In other words, about the length of the car?
- A Not quite that far; about half the length of the car.
- Q Wait a minute. Your car is not twenty feet long?
- A It is eighteen.
- Q Eighteen feet? A Sure, counting your bumpers and all. It is 131 inches.
- Q That is eleven feet. A Eleven feet. Well, I should say about practically the length of the car. I could look right at the back--that is, just to the side and see these bushes.
- Q On which side of that lane did you park? Do you remember was it to the right or to the left?
- A It was only wide enough just for one car to go in.
- Q Just for one car? A Yes.

Q When they took you out to the scene the other day did you observe the distance from where you said your car was parked to where the crabapple tree had been?

A Yes, we paced it.

Q How many paces was it?

A Well, it was seven hundred feet.

Q Seven hundred feet? A Yes.

Q And it is your understanding, then, that you were seven hundred feet from the crabapple tree when you heard the shots? A Yes.

Q All right. Go ahead, then.

A Now, so we had only been there I guess for a couple of minutes and we heard this mumbling of voices, men's voices, which seemed to come, to me, from down back of the Phillips farmhouse. I mentioned it at the time, back of the Phillips farmhouse. And shortly--probably just a few seconds afterwards--we heard this one shot, and then a woman's scream, "Oh, oh," Of course troubled screaming at first, you know, and then there is a second and third--bang, bang, bang--three shots. And she kept on screaming.

Q After the shots?

A After the three shots, but in an agonizing way, "Ah, ah," more of a moan, see, but kept on moaning; and I pictured since then the same as a chicken would keep on going after its head was cut off, don't you know. It will finally--it died out a little bit, but not until evidently someone had taken and--"Urrr, urrr," That is just the

way I pictured it in my own mind. So now since the thing has come to light, since we know who were there and know that they were human beings, and know that it wasn't anything further. She of course was very much startled and I said, "Well, now, don't pay any attention to that. It is only some Italians down back of the farmhouse." That is all I thought to myself, quarrel, something like that. They had these quarrels up here, so I assured her of that fact. "Well," she said, "let's pull out." Well I said, "Now wait a minute. We don't want to rush away from here. We will take our time." So I just backed quietly out, put my lights on, and went out.

Q Did you put your lights on before you backed out into DeRussey's Lane? A No. I backed right down DeRussey's Lane and then put my lights on. There is a little incline there and I could slide the car out. In fact, I don't think I even put my motor on. Of course that would be immaterial anyway.

Q Yes. Well, now, Mr. Gorsline, Miss Rastall says that she thinks that the mumbling voices came from behind your car, and she says that it seemed to be jumbled voices of people in conversation who were walking, and to her it seemed that the voices and the mumbling became very indistinct as though the people were walking away. A Yes.

Q Does that coincide with your recollection?

A Of course the only thing I remember is hearing this mumbling. We were too far away from it to hear, and you can't tell the direction of it. They asked me yesterday, I said I was sitting on one side of the windshield. Miss

Rastall was on the other. Now she says these shots came from the right--I mean the mumbling came from the right. I said she may be just as right as I am, because did you ever hear an automobile going down the street? One person will say it is going one way and one person the other. So you can't judge from that.

Q Here is one factor in that. Are you able to say, from the kind of mumbling or sounds that you heard, whether or not the persons were quarreling? Did it seem to your mind that they were? A No, you could not discern that at all. We were too far away from it.

Q Did it seem to you that whoever were talking or mumbling were engaged in high pitched voices and that you were so far away that you could not hear it, or were they talking in simply normal voices?

A They asked me that yesterday. I says no. Well, didn't they sound as--didn't one voice sound like Mr. Hall? I said no, it sounded just like men, like I am talking to you now, low tone.

Q There was no appearance, as far as you could determine, of persons quarreling? A No, we were too far away to discern that. They asked me over there, "Couldn't you distinguish those words, 'Oh, Henry,' or anything about letters?" I said no, we were entirely too far away from the voices.

Q And your point is that you were so far away that you could not tell whether it was voices of persons quarreling in

the distance or whether it was simply persons talking in a normal tone of voice in the distance?

A Or closer by. We could not tell that, could not say that. I don't know.

Q So far as you are concerned, you don't know whether there was any quarreling or was not any quarreling?

A No, no, we do not. We just heard this mumbling of voices. I have always mentioned this mumbling because that is what it sounded like to me.

Q Did you notice that mumbling of voices when you first went into the lane off of DeRussey's Lane?

A No. That happened probably maybe about a minute or two after we had been in there.

Q How long do you think you had been there before you heard the first shot? A Probably three or four minutes.

Q Well, now, you know you were reported to have said that a man came by your car while you were there and you said to him, "Hello, what are you doing here?" A Yes.

Q Did that occur? A No, absolutely not. I saw no one. I heard no one. No one saw me that I knew of, had no conversation with anyone.

Q And until you had backed out of the little lane to the left and had got on DeRussey's Lane facing Easton Avenue, you did not turn your lights on; is that right?

A No, I didn't turn my lights on. I remember I just slid down the bank like this and then I turned my lights on and drove on out.

- Q When you drove into the little lane off DeRussey's Lane did you have your lights on until you brought your car to a stop? A Yes.
- Q And then they weren't turned on again until after you backed out into DeRussey's Lane? A Yes.
- Q After you passed the one car that you met as you went into DeRussey's Lane from Easton Avenue, did you see any other automobile or wagon or person while you were in the lane?
- A No. We saw no automobile, no person or persons.
- Q Did you hear the sound of any noisy, rickety wagon?
- A No, we did not.
- Q And you did not see Mrs. Jane Gibson in the lane that night? A No, we did not.
- Q You did not see any mule? A No.
- Q You did not hear a mule bray? A No, sir.
- Q Mr. Gorsline, was the night particularly dark or was it just normally dark? That is a hard question to answer. I mean, were the stars out? A Not that I can recall. I think not.
- Q Then it must have been a pretty dark night?
- A Pretty dark night as I can recall. I don't think it was rainy, but it was a pretty dark night.
- Q No, the night wasn't rainy. A No.
- Q Then you came back by the same route that you went out?
- A I don't recall whether it was by Landing Bridge or by Easton Avenue. Of course it had to be one of those two ways. We went right to Miss Rastall's house.

- Q On Senior Street? A On Senior Street.
- Q Did you have any conversation with her on the way home as to what you would say if you were asked whether you had been out that night? A No, sir; we did not.
- Q You did not talk about it? A Didn't say anything further about it.
- Q Then when was the next time you saw Miss Rastall?
- A Saturday afternoon.
- Q Did you call for her at her house? A Yes.
- Q Then where did you go? A Out to the Phillips farm.
- Q What did you say to her out there that had reference to the events of the night before?
- A I don't think we mentioned anything out there that afternoon.
- Q Do you recall whether you said anything to her to the effect that if you had turned your lights on you might have seen? A I think I did. I did that subsequently. I remember when we talked the matter over--I think it was Sunday after church.
- Q She says that she recalls that you said that to her while you and she were standing off together at the scene on Saturday afternoon? A That is possible, absolutely possible.
- Q Now, then, the next time you saw her was when?
- A I think it was after church on Sunday morning.
- Q And did you discuss anything about the matter then?
- A Yes. I think it was then,--that was the time when we said,

"Now, listen; we know just exactly now what happened. Now, for your sake and for my sake we had better just simply say nothing about it. You know that I was at the Y till ten o'clock. You know that you were at the State Theatre till ten. You know that our meeting was chance. We didn't have any appointment. I asked to drive you home and you got in the house about twenty after ten or thereabouts. I was home about 10:30 or a few minutes after. We know that is all right. Now, that is our story, and I shall always stick to that to protect your interest." So we always did.

Q Now, then, to pick out something I forgot: How is it that you recall that you got in the house at 10:30?

A Only just from following out the way we went up there and the length of time we were in. I don't suppose we were in there more than maybe, well, six or eight or ten minutes.

Q Miss Rastall says that when she got home she looked at her watch and that it was 10:20 or possibly 10:25.

A Well, she would know.

Q Do you remember looking at any watch or clock when you got in? A No. I know Mrs. Gorsline was out.

Q She was out? A Yes. And the only thing, I judge it was about twenty-five of eleven, maybe, because I parked my car at the State Highway garage. That is right over there. I just walked right across. That takes me about five or six minutes.

- Q And then did you go to bed? A Yes.
- Q And you slept in the same room with Mrs. Gorsline?
- A Yes.
- Q So your time is accounted for for the rest of the night?
- A Oh, absolutely, for the rest of the night on, yes.
- Q Does Mrs. Gorsline have any recollection as to the time when you came home? A Only in just when the case came up we went over it pretty thoroughly.
- Q From DeRussey's Lane where you were parked until you got home, leaving Miss Rastall at her home, what would the amount of time be that it would take you?
- A Oh, probably about three minutes.
- Q That is all? A Yes.
- Q In from DeRussey's Lane to your house wouldn't it take you more than three minutes? A From the time I left Miss Rastall to the time I got here?
- Q Yes. That is, to your home. A To my home. Probably, let me see. Probably eleven or twelve minutes.
- Q So if you left the Y a few minutes before ten and only stayed in DeRussey's Lane for-- A Eight or ten minutes.
- Q Eight or ten minutes? A Yes.
- Q You had time to get out there, stay there eight or ten minutes, and get back to your home by about what time?
- A About 10:30 or twenty-five of eleven anyway at the latest.
- Q Now, the story is that you said something to a man named Van Pelt, Jacob Van Pelt; is that right?

A I remember it, but I thought that at the time that it was a couple of weeks after, but he said that I came there on Friday morning.

Q You mean Friday morning after you had been there that night?
A Yes. He made a statement to that effect.

Q What was it that you can recall that you told him?

A Why, according to his statement, which seemed to be pretty clear too,--"Well, Jake, I was out last night out in DeRussey's Lane, and by golly I bet there was a murder out there because we heard some voices and some shots and screams," and I commented upon it pretty freely, you know, and I said, now-- Of course he asked me if there was anything doing.

Q Meaning by that whether you--

A With the girl, I mean.

Q That is what I mean. Meaning whether you had been doing anything with the girl?

A I said, "No, nothing like that." He said, "Oh, don't kid me. I'll bet you were too scared to."

Q Did you tell him who the girl was?

A No, I did not. That is what makes me think that they got out of him more that made it worse than what I would actually say under the circumstances, but I know they had been doing that right along, you know.

Q How did you happen to speak to him? Was he a particular friend of yours?

A He had done my repair work and we had gone fishing together.

Q Repair work on the car? A Yes. We had gone fishing together. And I was standing there and he said, "You are a little late this morning,"--according to his statement; I don't remember that at all. When he confronted me up in Somerville I said, "Why, Jake, you know that is a damn lie, that you didn't see me that morning. It was a couple of weeks after we were talking about it."

Q When he confronted you in Somerville recently he said that you came to him on Friday, September 15?

A Yes.

Q And it is your recollection that it was a couple of weeks after that that you saw him? A Yes.

Q But you are not perfectly clear on that?

A Not perfectly clear, no.

Q Did you make any statement to him about having seen anybody up there that night?

A No. He had that in his statement, but I never mentioned it to a soul because I did not see anybody.

Q And did the State Police show you his statement before he confronted you? A Yes.

Q And in his statement, as nearly as you can recall, what did he say? Just go ahead and tell us.

A About shots?

Q The whole thing; whatever he said in his statement.

A Why, he says that he had known Ralph Gorsline, that he

had no animosity; there was the kindest feeling existed between them, been close friends; that he had done my repair work on my automobile; had been fishing together; and that about 8:30 on the morning of Friday, September 15, Mr. Gorsline came to my place on business and seemed very much excited, saying that he was out in DeRussey's Lane with Miss Catherine Rastall--that is his statement--and that, according to the way he fixed it, "he was just about to tear off a piece,"--You can imagine a man saying a thing like that--"when he heard these screams, or heard the voices, shots fired and screams, and his tool wilted"--This is awful testimony but this is what he said.

Q Did he say in that statement that you had said to him that while you were parked there and before the shots a man came by that you recognized and you said to him, "Hello, what are you doing here?"

A No, they would not show me that part of the statement. I don't recall seeing that.

Q When Van Pelt confronted you did he make that statement?

A No, they didn't. They kept that away from him.

Q I see. Did he, Van Pelt, make that statement?

A Oh, no, he did not.

Q So far as you know he never has claimed that you said that to him? A Not to my knowledge I don't think he has.

Q Did he say to you when he confronted you that you had told him that you turned your headlights on and saw the

- people at the scene of the murder? A No, he did not.
- Q Was that in the statement of Van Pelt's that they showed you? A No, it was not .
- Q You know that that is what Inspector Underwood has said that you said to him? A That I turned it on, yes.
- Q And that is not true? A No, I never did tell about it.
- Q So far as you know, Van Pelt has not said that you said that to him? A No. I did make the statement up there that if I had turned my searchlight on--I had my searchlight on the side. My automobile lights would not have done any good at all. They were amber color, very poor. But I had my searchlight here, and if I had turned that on I might have seen what was doing.
- Q You had a searchlight on the car too? A Yes.
- Q And that was working? A Yes. At least I imagine it was; I don't know.
- Q And you said to Underwood that if you had turned that on you might have seen something? A Yes.
- Q But the fact is you did not turn the searchlight on?
- A I did not, no. I was going to turn it on. I said, "I guess I will turn it on, see what is going on around here." She said, "Oh, no; don't do anything like that." I said, "I guess I better not either." We were both a little bit worried, so we did not do it.
- Q Did you turn that searchlight on at all that evening?
- A Not at all, no.
- Q You are perfectly positive about that?

A Absolutely positive. I used it very seldom, only to look at signs, because there is a law against using search-lights, and I always adhered to that.

Q I have seen one account in the papers, which is attributed to Inspector Underwood--I don't know whether it is so or not--that he said that you had told him you were in the Phillips Lane within fifty feet of the scene of the murder that night. Is that true? A That is absolutely not true.

Q And you never told Underwood that? A No, sir; I never told Underwood that.

Q Has there been any doubt expressed by you to the prosecuting officials as to where your car was that night, or have you always maintained that it was at the one place?

A Always maintained it was right out there. The only thing was when they asked Catherine for her first statement. They says, "We know that you were there, now. Of course I don't care whether you say you were just in there to turn around." She said, "That is practically all we did, just went in there to turn around." So they asked me, they said, "Now, listen, we don't care whether you went in there or not." I said, "I know what you want to know, where my car was. I will tell you just exactly where it was," And I drew the diagram and I showed them just exactly where it was, which is the positive thing. "It is right there. Here are the bushes. It was just by that little incline." So we paced it off. We went over

there. It is seven hundred feet from the crabapple tree.

Q Who was there at that time with you when you paced it off?

A Walsh, Underwood, Burke, and the photographer.

Q Was he a "Mirror" photographer?

A No, he was a "New York Journal."

Q And he took pictures of you while you were pacing it off?

A Oh, yes.

Q Did they have any "Mirror" representative there as far as you know?

A No, not as far as I know.

Q Are both the "Mirror" and the "New York Journal" Hearst newspapers?

A Oh, sure. I sometimes think that that stenographer over there, though, is representing one paper or the other.

Q What is his name; do you know?

A No, I don't know his name.

Q Is he a small, Jewish boy?

A Yes. Well, I don't know whether he is so much a Jewish boy or not, but he is stout.

Q What makes you think that he is representing the papers?

A He does little things that will come out, you know. They know things, particularly after you give them ^{those things.} They are in with the newspaper reporters all the time.

Q You are speaking now of Underwood and Walsh?

A Yes. They give to the newspapers everything they have. They took our statements and took ten of them down and

just passed them right out to the newspapers after assuring them that nothing would come out except to the grand jury.

Q Did you talk to Simpson at all? A No, sir.

Q You have not seen him? A Have not seen him.

Q When you were there yesterday did you meet--

A Wolf?

Q Wolf. A And Hayes?

Q And Hayes. A Yes, both of them.

Q Was there any indication to you that there had been a fight between Underwood and Simpson?

A Well, they came up and they took charge, and Underwood got kind of a little red in the face, and they said, "Oh, oh, go ahead. Go ahead, Inspector. We don't want to interfere with this man."

Q Who questioned you yesterday?

A Underwood alone. You see I had my cousin there for a while.

Q Was that Mr. Jacob Lefferts? A Yes.

Q Was he the former prosecutor of Bergen County?

A No. Donald Lefferts, my other cousin.

Q What is Mr. Jacob Lefferts' address? A Matawan.

Q Has he an office in New York or Jersey City?

A No, he is pretty well tied up there. He represents the banks, building and loans. He is County Tax Assessor.

Q He is now acting as counsel for you?

A I didn't need any counsel, but just to secure--go my bail.

That is the only thing.

Q He is a lawyer? A Yes.

Q So Wolf and Hayes did not examine you at all yesterday?

A Only asked me a couple of questions.

Q Do you remember what they were?

A One was about being seen at the Pennsylvania Railroad Station at one o'clock when Mrs. Hall got out of this sedan and went in and telephoned.

Q One o'clock when? A Friday morning.

Q One o'clock. You mean A. M. or P. M.? A A. M.

Q They told you that Mrs. Hall--

A It was understood that Mrs. Hall got out of a sedan at one A. M. and went into the Pennsylvania Station and made a telephone call, and that an officer, a New Brunswick officer "saw you crouching down in the back and you had your hat pulled down over your face so that you did not want to be seen; is that so?"

Q What was your answer? A I said, "Absolutely no."

Q Do you remember what the other question was?

A The other question pertained to my giving them information regarding Minnie Clark and as to what her duties were around there, to which I replied that she had always been interested in Sunday school; she was a teacher; she belonged to the different women's organizations; and was active in church affairs. They said, "Well, wasn't she the one that always cleaned up Mr. Hall's study, his desk and things like that?" I said, "No, not to my knowledge."

I don't think she ever did it."

Q Did they ask you if you had ever seen or known of any notes passing between Hall and Mrs. Mills?

A Oh, yes. Well, Underwood asked me that. Yes, they asked me that every time.

Q What was your answer to that?

A I never seen a note that either one wrote to the other in all my time up there. I never seen any correspondence up there.

Q That is true? A Absolutely. I never knew it existed.

Q Did they accuse you of having taken such notes to Mrs. Hall? A Yes.

Q What was your answer to that? A I said I never did anything of the kind.

Q And that was the truth? A Absolutely.

Q Did you ever tell Mrs. Hall, directly or indirectly, of any improper relationship, if there was one, between her husband and Mrs. Mills? A Never in my life. I never knew it existed.

Q Do you remember that one Saturday afternoon four years ago I talked with you in the Bearman factory?

A Yes.

Q And we had quite a long talk, a couple of hours?

A Yes.

Q My recollection is that you told me then that you had once spoken to Hall about his being with Mrs. Mills a good deal and that he put his arm on your shoulder and

said, "Oh, Ralph, you are putting thoughts in your head that are not mine," or something of that nature?

A They asked me that this time, but I told him I didn't know anything about it.

Q I recall that you made that statement to me.

A I probably did. I was just thinking about that, because at the time I just heard the rumor at that time, and I think I did say something to him about it.

Q At that time when you did speak to him, if you recall that you did, did you know or suspect that there were any meretricious relations between Hall and Mrs. Mills?

A No. Never gave it a thought in my life. They asked me that question over there. I said, "Why, I didn't think Hall was that stamp of a man."

Q You knew Hall pretty well?

A Sure. I was away camping with him.

Q I remember you told me that four years ago. A Yes.

Q There was nothing in your conversations you had with him that indicated that he was over-sexed?

A No. In fact, I judged that he was just the opposite way. Over all our camping we have never mentioned a thing about women in our lives.

Q In your contacts with Mrs. Hall before the murder or after the murder, has she ever said or done anything that has made you believe or even think that she knew of any improper relationship between Hall and Mrs. Mills?

A No, she has never done anything, or I have never heard

of anything that would make me believe that she would know it.

Q And you never have conveyed any messages, directly or indirectly, to her concerning whatever the relationship was between Hall and Mrs. Mills?

A Never spoke to Mrs. Hall regarding Mr. Hall in any way.

Q Before the murder, Mr. Gorsline, did you see Mrs. Hall very often? A You mean during the last year?

Q I mean to say before the murder.

A Yes, for the last year before the murder. Not a great deal of time; very seldom.

Q Were the times when you saw her nearly always in the church? A Yes.

Q Do you remember seeing her in the Hall house the year before the murder? A I think we went up there. We had a choir night up there before the murder, during that year before the murder.

Q That is the only time you remember being at the house?

A Yes.

Q Was that time that you were there after the Halls had returned from the Summer vacation or before, if you remember? A After. That is, of course, not between August and the time they were found out in DeRussey's Lane. That is the year before that, you know.

Q You mean a whole year before that?

A Yes. Of course, during that Winter, during that Winter or in Spring.

- Q So it was no time during the Summer of 1922?
- A Oh, no.
- Q Sometime during the Winter of 1921 and 1922? A Yes.
- Q Well, now, since the murder have you had any conversations with Mrs. Hall? A No.
- Q None at all? A Well, only just to say "How do you do" and pass the time of day.
- Q Have you ever been in her house since the murder?
- A No, I have not.
- Q Have you ever discussed the murder or any of its features with Mrs. Hall? A Never in my life; no, sir.
- Q And the only time that you ever have given any statement to any one representing Mrs. Hall before today is that time you saw me four years ago?
- A Yes. They asked me that. They asked me, "Did you know DeMartini came to see you, or some of Mrs. Hall's representatives or detectives did?" "I don't remember. I don't recall any of them coming to me." I says, "I don't know DeMartini." It just happened to flash through my mind that you came there, so I didn't say anything further.
- Q They didn't ask you specifically whether I had seen you four years ago? A I said, "Here, maybe I had better get a little advice on this"--to myself, don't you know, because I didn't think of it at the time I answered it.
- Q My recollection is that DeMartini never did see you.
- A No, he didn't see me.

Q I will check up on that and find out his recollection, but I think it is correct that he never did see you.

A Yes.

Q You had taken Miss Rastall out to DeRussey's Lane once or twice before the night of September 14, had you?

A That I don't recall, that I had been out there with her before. I don't recall ever going in that lane, but she said there might have been once or twice before, so I put it in that way.

Q You say that because you are not absolutely sure?

A I am not certain, no. I think that is the only time we were ever in DeRussey's Lane. A couple of times before that we had driven up to the top of the hill and parked there. The road was a little bit wider.

Q You mean, then, you do recall you had been out with her a couple of nights before in that general neighborhood?

A Not a couple of nights before. A couple of times before.

Q A couple of times before in that same neighborhood, but you don't remember whether the times before you went into the lane? A No, I don't think we ever went into the lane before.

Q Since the murder you have had her out several times, haven't you? A Well, we have-- Oh, yes, but not any recently at all. That is years ago. See, my car burned up in October.

Q And since then have you had a car?

A Yes, but not until the following Spring.

Q Your car burned up in October, 1922. You did not get a car until when? A January, 1923.

Q Mr. Gorsline, the fact that you had loaned that car to Ducet and that it was burned up was purely an accident?

A Purely an accident.

Q It had not anything to do with your attempt to conceal anything? A Absolutely none whatever; no.

Q Do you think the prosecutors are convinced that that is the truth? A I don't believe they know. I think they are in doubt, yes, because Ducet is up there today, I understand, although I did not see Ducet. I have not seen him in a couple of years.

Q You have not talked with Van Pelt since he gave a statement to the prosecutor? A I have not.

Q And do you remember what he said when he confronted you, about a statement that you had seen somebody up there that night?

A That didn't come up when he confronted me. It was only the fact that I said I don't remember stopping and seeing anybody on Friday morning. I said when this thing came out we did joke about it, but he said, "Well, Ralph," he said, "you know very well you came into my place on Friday morning." I said, "Are you sure it wasn't two weeks after that?" "I know it was Friday morning because," he said, "you didn't know. You thought it had been some burglar out there. You didn't know what it was but you were a little bit excited." But then he went out of the

room and I said, "Now, you see, there is Van Pelt's statement." So after they came all night I said, "Well, there is no good of keeping this thing, going any longer, because the girl has given the correct statement. She has told all she knew, and if I continue this way they will shut me off and put me on the stand and get perjury."

Q So you concluded to tell the truth?

A So I told them everything I knew.

Q You have now told the prosecutors the whole truth, haven't you? A The whole truth.

Q You are not concealing any fact at all that has anything to do with the murder or its solution? A Not any fact at all.

Q And your purpose in concealing the truth up to this time was to shield Miss Rastall? A Yes, absolutely.

Q And it was only when you became convinced that she had told the truth that you then did tell the truth?

A Yes.

Q Now, there is no fact in your relationship with Miss Rastall, or any other reason, that is now leading you to conceal anything further?

A Oh, no, not a bit, no. She has her own car. She can go home. And that is how the thing originally started. Mr. Hall asked me to take the different ones home, and of course that is all done away with now. That has been done away with for three years.

Q Now, there is some stuff in the papers about revolvers.

Did you ever have a 32-calibre revolver?

A I might have had.

Q Well, how long ago was it? A Oh, probably eighteen or twenty years ago.

Q How long before September, 1922, had you disposed of the 32-calibre revolver? A Oh, goodness. I tried to fix it sometime during the war in 1918 or 1919.

Q So you had not had a 32-calibre revolver for several years before the murder? A Several years before.

Q You had a 45? A I still have a 45.

Q That is the same one that you had for many years?

A Oh, no. I got this during the war for myself. I bought it for myself.

Q And you were in what in the war?

A I was captain in the local company here.

Q And you at that time got a 45? A Yes, which I still have, yes, right over in my drawer.

Q Now, before 1922 did you have any other calibre revolver or pistol? A No. I bought several 38, long-barreled revolvers from Camp Raritan.

Q When? A Probably 1921, along there. I could not tell just the date. I can look it up for you.

Q I mean approximately. A Yes.

Q It was sometime before the murder?

A Oh, yes, before the murder.

Q What was your purpose in buying these?

A Fellows wanted to get them for to keep in the house for

protection and I had a means of getting them from Camp Raritan, from the United States Government.

Q When you say "fellows" you mean men in the factory?

A Yes, men in the factory.

Q You would buy them and give them to them?

A Give them to them, \$5.50 apiece.

Q In September, 1922, did you have any 38-calibre gun in your possession? A No.

Q You had simply bought them and turned them over to the persons for whom you bought them? A Yes.

Q They were simply using you to get the guns because you had access to a place from which they could be bought?

A Yes, guns and ammunition.

Q Did they ask you over at Somerville all about these guns?

A No, sir; never said a word about it. Funny thing. I expected they would. You know the funniest thing to me was the fact that I have every medal the United States gives for marksman, sharp-shooter, expert rifleman. I have them all, every one of them. You know what they tried to confront me with. They tried to confront me with the fact that "the attorneys for the defense were going to fasten a crime upon you, Mr. Gorsline, and Jimmy Mills, and that that is what they are working on now." Of course I said, "I am rather surprised to hear of that." Mr. Pettit of course told me beforehand all about it, before I knew. Well, now, my cousin has got-- I don't know whether this ought to go on the record.

- Q Yes, we had better have it all down.
- A Well, now, my cousin has got sort of several ideas in his mind that are kind of startling to me, having followed the case, and I was just wondering, he was wondering whether he might not be of service to you.
- Q I would like very much to talk with him.
- A You could do that just as lawyers together.
- Q Exactly. Can I reach him on the telephone? A Yes.
- Q Do you know his number?
- A You can get him at Passaic. I don't know his number in Passaic, but Mr. Pettit has his card. Did he give it to you?
- Q I think he left it at Mrs. Hall's house and I am going there now, so I can get it.
- A Yes. He has got some--he has got two or three ideas in mind. Of course the crime has got to be fastened upon somebody.
- Q Exactly.
- A And I can't see any further than that particular woman. Another thing they asked me over there--
- Q You mean, now, you are referring to the pig woman?
- A Over at Somerville they asked me who I thought committed the crime.
- Q What was your answer?
- A My answer was that first four years ago I thought it was Snyder and Hayes, mistaken identity, but since the new investigation has come in I have not expressed any

opinion or I have not given it any deep thought beyond the person who was there and knew more about it than anybody else, and that is who I said in my mind; but they razzed me to beat the cards. I do not see how in the world it does not seem logical to me that that woman, running her mule all the way home, would come back that night, late at night, and she had never been in that place before.

Q You know she testified on cross-examination that when she read it in the papers on Sunday she did not realize it was the place where she had been that night at all because she had not been there before; yet she previously testified that she had been able to go back the second time that night to the place where she had been the first time.

A Yes. I thought that moccasin had never been found, but it had. I asked them, "How about that moccasin that was never found?" They said, "Oh, yes, that was found."

Q They did not tell you by whom? A No.

Q At the trial they never put the person on the stand who said he found the moccasin.

A Yes. It was really found, was it?

Q I don't know. A Wasn't the other one there?

Q They had a moccasin which they produced in court.

A The question is whether that is not the one she had left.

Q That is a very real question, I think.

A Yes. But I can see from what you said that I thought you

were drawing her as close as you possibly could to that scene. That is what I thought in my mind. Of course I haven't expressed this. I haven't said it to a soul, and I could see the reasonableness of that. Now, goodness, I thought that fact that she said, "I haven't killed anyone else," was so significant. Your statement came out in the newspapers, anyway the "Times."

Q It was quoted that way in the "Times"?

A "And I haven't killed anyone else."

Q Did that tell you that she had a pistol?

A No, but she said she had shot a gun off many times before. That is when that part came in.

Q And she volunteered the information.

A She did not have to say that, but she said, "I didn't kill anyone else."

Q I remember my saying in answer to that answer of hers that I wasn't accusing her of killing anybody.

A That is right. That prompted you to say, "Oh, well, Mrs. Gibson, I am not accusing you of killing anybody."

Q Before you were called to Somerville, in this investigation of 1926, did you consult or confer, directly or indirectly, with any representative of Mrs. Hall?

A No, I did not.

Q And is today at this time the first time that you have made any statement to any representative of Mrs. Hall in this investigation of 1926?

A Yes, it is.

Q And the only previous time that you made any statement to any representative of Mrs. Hall was in 1922 when you gave me a statement? A Yes.

Q And you remember that that statement in 1922 was not taken down by a stenographer? A I do.

Q Simply you and I were alone together? A Yes.

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